

Returning your Census and Voting

Do you return your town census every year? Are you surprised when you are on the inactive voter list at the polls? The only way that the Board of Registrars can know that you still reside in Westford is by returning your census. The only way to ascertain the current population for grant awards and state funding is through the census. It's that important. The Board of Registrars is responsible for keeping the resident and voter lists up to date and the law obliges them to move non responding voters to the inactive voter list. We want to hear from you! Please return your census form. If you have lost it, please contact the Town Clerk's Office and we will mail you a blank form.

New voters to Westford are reminded that you cannot register to vote on the census form, but we are happy to mail you a registration form.

Please refer to the calendar below for elections and town meetings planned for 2013.

Date	Event	Voter registration deadline
March 23, 2013 10am	Annual Town Meeting, Abbot School (Sat.)	March 1, 2013, 8:00pm
May 7, 2013	Annual Town Election (Tues.)	April 17, 2013, 8:00pm
October 2013	Special Town Meeting Abbot School (Mon.)	10 days prior to special town meeting

Absentee ballots are typically available three weeks prior to an election. Contact the Town Clerk's office for more information.

Information about open positions for elected offices in 2013 and changes to dog license fees may be found on page 3.

If you are not recycling, your household trash will not be collected by the Town's trash hauler as of February 1, 2013.

Recycling has been mandatory in Westford for almost 20 years.

Now the mandate will be enforced, to comply with State regulations and to save money.

Recycling is easy.

There is no sorting needed. Glass jars & bottles, plastic containers & jugs, cans, all paper and broken-down cardboard can go into the same container. Use a bin, a wheeled recycling toter, or any barrel with a RECYCLE sticker on it. Pick up a free RECYCLE sticker at the Town Clerk's office, weekdays 8 am – 4 pm, or send a self-addressed stamped business envelope to the Westford Recycling Commission, 55 Main Street and we will mail you a sticker.

To order a 64 gallon wheeled toter, send a check for \$40 (\$45 after July 1) payable to Westford Recycling Commission, 55 Main Street.

AFTER FEBRUARY 1ST, IF THERE ARE RECYCLABLES IN YOUR TRASH AND/OR THERE IS NO RECYCLING CONTAINER OUT ON YOUR RECYCLING DAY, THE TRASH HAULER WILL LEAVE YOUR TRASH BEHIND.

If you choose not to recycle, you can hire any trash hauler to take away your trash. Look under Garbage Removal in the Yellow Pages or look online.

Or, you can start recycling. It's your choice.

QUESTIONS? Email recycling@westfordma.gov, **phone** any of the volunteers on the Recycling Commission: Ellen 692-2039, Sue 692-1027, Kris 692-2887, Alan 692-1105, Barbara 692-5177, Joan 392-5955 or Charles 617-251-7216, or **call** the Town Manager's office at 692-5501 or Town Clerk's office at 692-5515

Thank you for doing your part.



Directory of Town Departments

Town Hall, 55 Main Street

Accounting	978 392-4450
Assessors	978-692-5504
Building Dept.	978-692-5527
Bylaw Enforcement.....	978-692-5527
Conservation Commission.....	978-692-5524
Finance	978-692-5518
Health Department.....	978-692-5509
Human Resources Dept.....	978-692-5501
Planning Board	978-692-5524
Town Clerk.....	978-692-5515
Town Manager.....	978-692-5501
Treasurer/Tax Collector	978-692-5506
Zoning Board of Appeals	978-692-5524

Cameron Senior Center, 20 Pleasant Street

Council on Aging.....	978-692-5523
Public Assistance, Food Pantry	978-692-5523
Social Worker	978-399-2325

Highway Facility, 28 North Street

Engineering Dept	978-692-5537
GIS Dept	978-692-5520
Highway Dept	978-692-5520
Tree Warden	978-399-2731

Millennium Building, 23 Depot Street

School Administration	978-692-5560
Veterans Services.....	978-392-1170

Animal Control Officer	978-692-4574 / 978-692-2161
Cemetery Dept.....	978-692-5532
Emergency Management.....	978-692-2161 / 978-692-5542
Fire Dept, 51 Main Street (PO Box 296)	978-692-5542
Housing Authority, 65 Tadmuck Rd	978-692-6011
Library, J.V. Fletcher 50 Main Street	978-692-5555
Parks & Recreation Dept, 35 Town Farm Road.....	978-692-5532
Cemetery Administrative Office	
Police Dept, 53 Main Street	978-692-2161
Technology Dept, 1 East Prescott St.....	978-399-2420
Water Dept, 60 Forge Village Rd.....	978-692-5529

Emergencies	911
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Open Positions for Local Office in 2013

The table below lists open seats for the May 7, 2013 Town Election. Nomination papers are now available from the Town Clerk's Office for those who are interested in running for office. The deadline to file nomination papers bearing the signatures of at least 50 Westford voters is Tuesday, March 19th at 5:00pm.

Office	# positions	Terms expiring for	Length of term
Selectmen	2	Robert Jefferies Andrea Peraner-Sweet	3 years 3 years
Board of Health	2	Susan M. Hanley Jilian Lee Lokere	3 years 3 years
Housing Authority	1	Phyllis Koulouras	5 years
Library Trustees	2	Elizabeth S. Diercks John E. Wrobel, Jr.	3 years 3 years
Planning Board	1	Kevin R. Borselli	5 years
School Committee	2	Arthur F. Benoit Judith E. Culver	3 years 3 years

Dog Licensing Fee Changes

There have been some recent changes to animal control laws. Among them, the requirement to charge a differential for spayed/neutered vs. non-altered dogs. The fees for 2013 are as follows:

- **\$15 for spayed/neutered dogs** (this is the same fee as last year)
- **\$20 for non-altered dogs**
- Residents age 70 and over don't have to pay to license your dog

All residents are reminded that the grace period for licensing ends on March 31st per Town bylaw. That means that a late fee of \$25 will be charged beginning April 1st. The only exceptions are for new owners and dogs to town.

All dogs ages 6 months and older must receive a rabies vaccination and be licensed per state law. For your convenience, the dog license application form is on the reverse of your census form.

Winter Parking Ban: November 1 – April 1

Residents are reminded that a winter parking ban is in effect from November 1st until April 1st.

- ♦ On-street parking is prohibited for more than 1 hour between the hours of 1:00 am and 8:00 am or when snow operations are in effect.
- ♦ Vehicles that are illegally parked will be ticketed and may be towed at the owner's expense if they interfere with snow removal operations.
- ♦ The Highway Dept's informational on snow and ice removal procedures is available online at: http://www.westfordma.gov/pages/government/towndepartments/WestfordMA_highway/index
Copies are available at the Town Clerk's Office.



Environmental Contamination Warning

Please be aware that storm drains connect to underground pipes that convey stormwater (the runoff water from rain and snowmelt) directly to a nearby water body. Whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in the closest wetland, stream, or pond, usually with little or no treatment.

- Storm drains are designed to quickly move stormwater off of paved surfaces in order to prevent flooding of streets and parking lots.
- Stormwater flowing down a storm drain will also contain pollutants from developed land.
 - Pollutants found in stormwater include pet waste, litter, sand, bacteria, and chemicals such as fertilizer and herbicides from lawns and oil and gas from cars.
 - These pollutants can harm the water quality of the receiving water body, such as rivers, lakes, wetlands and the ocean, which may impact drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and wildlife.
- It is important for the public to protect their natural resources and not to dump wastes down storm drains, reducing pollution to rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, wetlands and groundwater.
- Preventing pollution to waterways is less expensive than cleaning them up after pollution has occurred, so every bit helps! For more information, please visit www.westfordma.gov/stormwater.

Sign Bylaw Review

Opportunity to provide input about New Sign Rules. Signs appearing along Route 110 and elsewhere in Westford have become a hot topic. Westford residents and businesses are working together to develop a common vision for signs to be erected in Westford in the future. Your help is needed to complete the public process.

You are encouraged to participate in the sign bylaw revision process. Public Hearings are scheduled to begin in January 2013 at the Planning Board. Ultimately, the proposed changes must be approved by Town Meeting. You can view the proposed Draft Sign Bylaw and related materials at www.westfordma.gov or send email comments to signbylaw@westfordma.gov. If you have questions about the process or the regulations, contact Chris Kluchman, Town Planner at 978-692-5524.

T.R.E.A.D.

(Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled) Program

Chapter 60, Section 3D

On May 13, 1997 the Town of Westford voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 60, Section 3D that establishes an elderly and disabled taxation fund. The purpose of this fund is to assist in defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of **low income**. In Westford, the program is administered through the Council on Aging.

Qualification Requirements:

- Must own and occupy the property for which taxes are assessed
- Must be 65+ years old or have a state recognized disability
- Must file completed application disclosing exemptions and household income and expenses for all members age 18+

TREAD awards may vary from year to year as funds are dependent upon the generosity of private individuals and businesses. No Town funds from the fiscal budget are used. Voluntary, tax deductible donations by the taxpayers or other individuals are the sole support of this program.

Are you able to help fellow residents in need?

In the year 2012 we had twenty-two (22) applicants of which 20 were approved to receive assistance with their tax bill in the average amount of four hundred and sixty three dollars (\$463.). We are in need of your donation to continue this program. No amount is too small. Please make checks payable to "Town of Westford" and mail them to TREAD Program, 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. Indicate on the check memo "for TREAD."